

# U.S. MAY TURN ON BRITAIN IN U BOAT ISSUE

Wilson Said to Be Impressed With Germany's 'Secret Orders' Evidence.

## ENGLAND TO DISARM LINERS, IS REPORT

May Be Told Vessels Instructed to Attack Are Not on Defensive.

## PRESIDENT NOT TO WARN AMERICANS

Executive's Supreme Wish Is to Avoid War, Says Senator Stone.

WASHINGTON, March 8.—The United States Government, it was learned tonight on high authority, is considering the advisability of questioning the character of armament used on British merchantmen.

Such action if taken will be based on the nature of the "secret orders" issued by the British Admiralty to English merchantmen directing them to fire on German and Austrian submarines on sight.

Washington officials heard to-day, though not from the British Government direct, that Great Britain has decided to disarm all passenger ships.

The report could not be confirmed at the British Embassy.

While no decision has been reached yet it is said that close examination of the "secret orders" together with other data submitted by the German Government in the appendices to the German submarine declaration of March 1, has impressed Administration officials to some extent with the reasonableness of the German contention.

That the British ships entering American ports are armed for defensive but for offensive purposes.

Because of this impression it is the intention of the State Department to submit the appendices to the British Government for verification and comment.

Should the impression be confirmed, it is probable that the United States will send a formal note to the British Government notifying it that from the American standpoint it is the intention of the United States to warn Americans of armed belligerent merchant ships, but in order to safeguard itself from violations of the neutrality laws of the United States, prohibiting offensively armed ships, it will require that the belligerent nation from which the ships are coming should first give notice of their armament.

In this connection it was learned that the State Department has recently received hints that the British Government, in view of the new German submarine declaration, may request its right to arm its merchant ships entering American ports.

This right was waived at the request of the American Government in the fall of 1914 but never surrendered, and since the signing of the British ships entering American ports has carried armament.

Convinced apparently that Congress by its recent action is prepared to leave the matter of the German submarine declaration in the hands of the President, the German Government, through Count von Bernstorff, laid before Secretary Lansing today a new note, setting forth in historical sequence the circumstances leading up to and from the German submarine declaration, justifying the new submarine campaign against enemy merchantmen.

## Surprise Over Note.

Officials of the State Department tonight in surprise over the new communication. Whether it was to be accepted as a supplement to the German declaration of March 1 or was designed to supersede it, it was not clear.

It was regarded as somewhat significant that the closing paragraph of the note expressed the hope that "the people of the United States" rather than the Government, should be the first to decide whether the German viewpoint, regarding the friendly relations that for the past hundred years have existed between the two nations.

# P. S. Nominations Still Held Up by the Senate

Governor Says He Will Not Withdraw Names of Whitney and Hervey—Thompson Firm Against Confirming Them.

## STRAUS WOULD GO IF WHITNEY DID

ALBANY, March 8.—The Senate Finance Committee to-day did not report the nominations of Travis H. Whitney and Charles S. Hervey as members of the New York City Public Service Commission. Neither did it take any action on nominations of the five State Industrial Commissioners, which have been bottled up in the committee ever since they were sent to the Senate by Gov. Whitman.

To show that there was no ill feeling toward the Bull Moose party, however, the committee voted to report favorably the nomination of George W. Perkins, a member of Gov. Whitman's recent cabinet, as a member of the Interstate Fair Lakes Park Commission. The committee also voted to report favorably the nomination of William W. Webb of Rochester as a member of the State Board of Claims to succeed Adolph J. Rosenbeck.

A committee did not even consider the Public Service and Industrial Commission nominations to-day. It seemed to Senator Thompson's desire that the Finance Committee would not act hurriedly in order to give the members of the committee time in which to ponder over the objections he and Senator Lawson made yesterday to the confirmation of the nominations.

## Denies Power Bill Incident.

Senator Thompson denied that he opposed Mr. Whitney's appointment because the latter, while representing the Citizens Union at Albany, had succeeded in killing a Niagara power bill introduced in the Assembly in 1904 when the Senator was a member.

"I never knew Mr. Whitney opposed this power bill," said Senator Thompson. "If he did it was one of the few good things I ever heard about it. I introduced a bill to let this power company which was controlled by Lockport people in my district and it passed the Legislature but was vetoed by Gov. Odell in 1904. In 1905 the bill was introduced again, but not by me, and he introduced it, but I opposed it and he lost it. I introduced the bill and he killed it in the Assembly, so it did not pass that year."

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# ENVER PASHA DEAD, SAYS ATHENS RUMOR

Wounds Inflicted by Assassin Admiralty Chief Says Critic's Fatal. According to Unconfirmed Report.

## TURKS PRO-GERMAN HEAD OPPOSENT HITS BACK

War Minister Unpopular Could Make Harder Thrust, Among Those Who Resented Teuton Domination.

LONDON, March 8.—An Athens despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company says that unconfirmed reports are circulating in Greece of the death of Enver Pasha, the Turkish War Minister.

A despatch from Rome yesterday said that Enver Pasha had been wounded in Constantinople in a revolutionary attack in which Germans were killed. Another report was to the effect that an attempt at Enver Pasha's life was made at Jerusalem.

The Turkish situation here seems the story on letters from Constantinople. According to details obtained from a good source Enver Pasha was shot at the War Ministry and very seriously wounded, probably mortally, by an officer who was immediately killed. Enver Pasha was almost torn to pieces by the War Minister's assassin before he could use his revolver against himself.

The source asserts that there is the greatest threat to the Turkish throne in Constantinople. The Germans there are the greatest threat to the Turkish throne.

No matter how could be struck at the Ottoman Empire and influence in the Balkans. Enver Pasha was a man of great energy and ambition. He was a man of great energy and ambition.

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# BALFOUR COUNTERS CHURCHILL ATTACK

Admiralty Chief Says Critic's Policy, Not His Own, Hampered Fleet.

## INCREASE VOTED.

LONDON, March 8.—Arthur J. Balfour, First Lord of the Admiralty, replied to-day in the House of Commons to Col. Winston Churchill's criticism of the present administration of the Admiralty.

Mr. Balfour said that Col. Churchill's speech was calculated to arouse doubts and misgivings and suspicion. He denied that there had been any breach in continuity between the preceding and the present board, and said that the Admiralty was doing all that it could to alleviate the shortage of labor.

The return from the front of Col. Churchill, who had been in the Admiralty since the outbreak of the war, was a political sensation. His demand for the recall of Admiral Lord Fisher, with whom he had quarreled, to First Sea Lord, was not less a sensation.

The newspapers print much adverse comment on Col. Churchill's action, and it appears that he has not increased his popularity.

Why Dreadnoughts Were Delayed. Mr. Balfour made his reply to Col. Churchill in the debate on the naval estimates. The cause of the delay in completing dreadnoughts, he said, was the requirements for the construction of new ships.

It is not possible to say as to the strength of the fleet, Mr. Balfour said, that the fleet was not as strong as it should be. The fleet was not as strong as it should be.

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# Unprecedented Storm of Fire Heralds Attacks

As Battle of Verdun Enters Third Phase 100,000 Shells Fall in Twelve Hours on French Trenches in Forges Region.

## BIGGEST GUNS SHRIEK IN WILD CHORUS

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. LONDON, March 8.—The Daily Mail's Paris correspondent telegraphs to-day: "The third phase of the battle of Verdun began on Sunday, when the Germans emerged from their positions around Forges and began their long expected flank offensive. It was about 5 o'clock in the morning when the first heavy shells were fired from the Forges wood and the village of Drillemont (west of the wood) toward Forges.

"The Germans already held Hill 243, which dominates the village and the road through the wood.

"The French artillery fire was so effective that the enemy was forced to mark time all day Sunday. Whenever the Prussian regiments debouched from the lower angle of the hill and the center of the wood they were met with machine gun and rifle fire from the village and positions along the Forges brook. They were also subjected to the bombardment of the Forges wood and the village of Drillemont.

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# FRENCH CHECK BIG DRIVE WEST OF THE MEUSE

Retake Bois des Corbeaux and Repulse Attack on Bethincourt.

## DOUAI MONTAIN AGAIN CENTRE OF FIGHTING

The Hardaumont Redoubt, East of Fort. Is Won by the Invaders.

REGNEVILLE NOW IN HANDS OF GERMANS Advance Nearly Two Miles Along Forges Brook on Wide Front.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. LONDON, March 8.—An important battle was delivered by the French to-day in the German progress west of the Meuse when the greater part of the Bois des Corbeaux, southeast of Bethincourt, which the Germans penetrated yesterday, was recovered, the Germans retaining only the eastern part of the wood.

It is at this point that the German attack of yesterday drove a wedge into the French line between Le Mort Homme and the Cote de Poie. French military critics point out that the woods between these two heights, in which the Germans attempted to establish themselves, were on lower ground than the heights themselves, and so far from endangering the French positions on the heights, were themselves under the fire of the French batteries on either bank.

The east of the Meuse the French took the Hardaumont redoubt, which is just east of the Douaumont fort. This redoubt was taken by the French yesterday and was recaptured by assault by the Germans to-day.

Attack Again at Douaumont. After a diversion of the centre of interest to the region to the west of the river the Germans resumed a violent bombardment against the Douaumont plateau to-day. The attack which resulted in the retaking of the Hardaumont position followed. At the same time the Germans attempted to resume their attack on the plateau of the French line before they had got under way.

Heavy artillery fighting is announced on both banks of the Forges brook line in the region of the Forges brook and La Haute Chevalerie, in the Argonne, and in the Woëvre.

In Alsace the French recovered in hand attacks against the French line. The French recovered in hand attacks against the French line. The French recovered in hand attacks against the French line.

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